

SITUATION REPORT NO. 29
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: August 5, 1999 TIME: 4:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.

2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Gusty winds and heavy rain contributed to a June 25 airplane crash in which a pilot died near the Mandan airport, Morton County officials have reported. The death was the second attributed to disaster conditions.

3. DAMAGES: The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,446.95 feet on August 5.

Thunderstorms with golfball-sized hail rolled through central Cass County on July 27, damaging 21,500 acres of wheat, edible beans, sugar beets, soybeans and corn. Percent of yield losses range from 40 to 75 percent. Six farm homes and service buildings sustained \$50,000 in damages.

Rain and hail also impacted Ransom County crops on July 27. Percent of yield losses for 16,000 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat ranged from 50 to 80 percent. Twenty farm homes and service buildings sustained damages during the storm.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The deadline to register for disaster assistance has been extended to September 7 for individuals and business owners in 42 North Dakota counties and five Indian reservations. To date, more than 7,700 North Dakota households and businesses have registered for assistance. Statewide, more than

\$8.5 million in grants and low-interest loans have been made for emergency rental assistance, home and business repair and replacement of personal property.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has proposed an endorsement to flood insurance policies that will allow property owners in areas around a closed basin lake, such as Devils Lake, to collect on their policy before floodwaters destroy an insured structure. The new proposal, published in the Federal Register on August 2, is an endorsement to the standard flood insurance policy that would enable property owners in areas of special consideration (ASC) to file claims for a total loss, less salvage value. Property owners would then relocate the structure outside the ASC to minimize the risk of flooding. To be eligible for this accelerated claims process in the Devils Lake area, a property owner would need to purchase a flood insurance policy before October 31, 1999.

Staff for the Crisis Counseling Program has recorded 5,599 visits with North Dakotans who have experienced emotional stresses as a result of continued flooding in North Dakota. Short-term activities for the program, managed by the N.D. Department of Human Services, include: identifying individuals who may qualify and have not yet called FEMA's toll-free registration number, (800) 946-9029; and a needs assessment of stress impact on individuals within the region.

Staff members for the FEMA's Community Relations Program are visiting North Dakotans who are 80 years of age and older to explain the application process for individual assistance for disaster victims.

Program Updates for FEMA-1279-DR-ND

The state-federal Public Assistance Program had received a total of 287 applications. Applicants include: 41 counties; 134 cities; 13 electrical cooperatives; 28 school districts; 14 park districts; 22 water resource boards; five Indian reservations; seven state agencies; and 23 others, including private non-profit organizations providing essential governmental services. Eligibility is pending for four other applicants.

By July 28, North Dakota Job Service had received 5,604 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. To date, \$2,926,191 in benefits has been paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who lost income because of the disaster.

To date, 7,736 North Dakotans have applied for Disaster Housing Assistance. To date, FEMA has paid \$6,137,268 million in benefits under the Disaster Housing Program.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 3,472 applications and approved \$414,437 in benefits. The average grant amounts to \$495.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) and FEMA's Tribal Relations will review the application process for SBA loans during a videoconference with officials for North Dakota's Indian Reservations. SBA has sent 6,061 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$2.3 million in loans as of August 3.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director